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# H&S scene

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### Recommended Citation

H&S Reports, Vol. 07, (1970 winter), p. 26-29

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## Keeping its guard up

In Seattle, a bank moves. Men load roughly \$3 billion in cash and securities onto handcarts, wheel the treasure out of a bank and stash it in silver gray, box-shaped trucks. Other men, armed with pistols, shotguns and submachine guns, hover nearby. The operation is quick and quiet.

In San Francisco, an armored car and its crew escort the Beatles and their electronic accoutrements from the airport to their hotel.

In Edmonton, two armed guards and an armored car show up in a picture on the society page of the daily newspaper—as background for a model.

It's all in a day's work for the men of Loomis Armored Car Service, a subsidiary of Loomis Corporation, client of H&S Seattle. A family business that recently went public, Loomis now has 45 branches in the United States and Canada.

It all started around the turn of the century when Lee B. Loomis began hauling gold by dogsled and mule train out of the Yukon and Alaska. In those days, Mr. Loomis offered his customers security—1900s style—by strapping on a revolver. In 1925 he moved to Portland, Oregon, where he modernized his security style by acquiring his first armored car. The heavy vehicle generated interest and curiosity in the community, but not much business. Two years later a crime wave convinced businessmen that sending large

sums of currency by messenger was unsafe and outmoded. Within five years, Lee Loomis began branching out.

Since the Roaring Twenties armored cars and concepts of security have come a long way. Though they are called cars (perhaps because the earliest models were converted automobiles), the armored vehicles are actually trucks, custom-made to Loomis specifications. The cost runs around \$12,000 each, but they provide good value because their life expectancy is about ten years. One old favorite of the fleet is a 1955 two-ton truck, which survived into 1968 and ran half a million miles. Then it was converted to accommodate a new, larger engine and began a second life.

H&S accountants working on property records for Loomis don't have to be concerned about trade-ins on armored cars. According to Charles A. Pancerzewski, H&S principal in Seattle,

where Loomis now has its headquarters: "For security reasons, the trucks are cut into scrap when they become unusable."

Today, under the direction of Lee Loomis' son, Walter, and his grandson, Charles, the company provides 1970-style security. It operates on the principle that Loomis is a transportation organization whose key service is protection. The 200-unit fleet of armored vehicles in various sizes have remote-control door locks, gas-proof ventilation systems and bullet-proof glass. Revolvers, however, are never very far out of the picture. Drivers and guards must maintain proficiency in firearms by frequent range practice. In 1969, Loomis won the National Armored Car Association pistol matches competing against marksmen from most armored car companies in the United States.

The 800 high-caliber Loomis guards, custodians, patrolmen and drivers undergo continual training, making the Loomis motto, "Safety With Dispatch," more than just a slogan. One guard, a 30-year veteran with Loomis, said, "I've never been in a holdup and I probably never will be. But we are trained to expect trouble at any time and we're ready for it."

Loomis vigilance extends over all sorts of cargo—gold bullion, hard cash, jewels, art treasures—a cartage that averages half a billion dollars a day for banks, brokerage houses, supermarkets, toll booths; from Hawaii to Alaska, from San Francisco to St. Paul, and across western Canada. Not long ago Loomis delivered 13,000 ancient coins to the vault of the Royal Bank of Canada, some of them Grecian pieces dating back to the sixth century B. C.

It is a measure of the Loomis Corporation's reputation for responsibility that the Beatles have written into their contract that Loomis is to provide official escort whenever the British rock group appears in San Francisco.

### Joggin' along

At 6:45 a.m., when the most energetic thing many people do is shut off the alarm, Oreson H. Christensen begins a five-mile jog around the gym of the Cincinnati Club.

After more than a year of starting three mornings a week this way, Mr. Christensen, partner in charge of H&S Cincinnati, lost ten pounds and had to have his suits altered. The weight loss is mainly from "controlling intake," Mr. Christensen said, rather than jogging. But the discipline of jogging regularly makes it easier to control his appetite "though I still enjoy eating as much as ever."

More significant perhaps is Mr. Christensen's own sense of well-being. "I have more stamina, more energy now," he said. "After working long days, I'm not so fatigued as I used to be." Equally important is his doctor's pronouncement that Mr. Christensen, who turns 50 in March, is in excellent

physical condition for his age. In the first year of the regimen, his once-high cholesterol level came back to normal range, and his pulse rate slowed to a desirable lower-than-average rate.

Mr. Christensen actually began jogging a couple of years ago. Facing the sedentary man's need to maintain a sound mind in a sound body, he tried jogging after five in the afternoon or at noontime. But other things usually interfered, he said, and he could not establish a routine. Then the Cincinnati Club told members it would open the gym early in the morning. So Mr. Christensen and about a dozen other hardy regulars, including Leo Voet, also a Cincinnati H&S partner, jog together. "We find it enjoyable," Mr. Christensen said, "and when we miss it, we actually miss it."

Besides a certain camaraderie the men derive from jogging together, Mr. Christensen said he found the downtown location of the gym "particularly suitable because it is near work and allows me to get to the office by 8:30. It is also attractive for people who don't have a convenient place to jog near home or don't particularly appreciate barking dogs or neighbors peering out of darkened windows at such an hour."

Jogging five miles indoors means 120 times around the gym, "and that can get quite monotonous," he pointed out. "The solution is to put your mind on other things, such as making plans for the day."

Mr. Christensen built up to the five

miles slowly, as all joggers should. Originally going a mile, he was up to three miles a session in four months, and up to five miles each Monday, Wednesday and Friday in four more months. He was then doing an eight-minute mile. Two months later, he was jogging the five miles in just thirty-five minutes.

He was encouraged in his regimen by the book *Aerobics*, by Kenneth H. Cooper, M.D., who offers suggestions for maintaining health and building endurance. Dr. Cooper recommends exercise, especially jogging. A person has to play seven hours of golf for exercise equal to one eight-minute mile of jogging, this expert states.

"Seven hours worth of golf is about thirty-six holes," Mr. Christensen figured. "I doubt that many of us play thirty-six at one time, and I suspect that even fewer can go around the course in eight minutes."

### **Legerdemain**

The phone rang at 3 a.m. in the Atlanta home of Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Benning, Jr. The caller told Mrs. Benning that he had taken the record books of the Benning Construction Co. and was holding them for ransom. He would call again with instructions, he said. It was a new angle on kidnapping—book-napping—and Theron L. Parr, Atlanta H&S principal on the Benning engagement, hopes it won't become common.

The senior Mr. Benning, president of the construction company, called H&S to help assess the loss. Theron learned that the general ledger and detail ledgers had been stolen, as had the cash receipts and cash disbursements

books, the general journal and the petty cash box. The H&S role was to reconstruct all the company's transactions since December 31, 1968.

Meanwhile, Mr. Benning and his two sons, Ted, Jr., and Frank, both of whom are active in running the family company, waited for a return call that would arrange the payoff. Working with the police, the Bennings had asked the telephone company to trace the call when it came.

The phone rang and Frank Benning took the call. The caller demanded \$500 cash in exchange for the company records. He gave details for the time and place of the meeting. Frank kept talking for about twenty-five minutes, certain that was enough time for the phone company to trace the call. Then he hung up and left with the \$500 to ransom the records. The police were promptly notified.

The thief called back to say that the deal was off. But Frank was already on his way. The phone company, which had not given the Bennings prior instructions about handling the call, now informed them that Frank should not have hung up. As a result, they said, they had been unable to trace the call.

The thief showed up after all. The police, who had said they would cover the area, did not. The thief forcibly relieved Frank of the \$500 and forced him to leave without the records. No further contact was made.

So H&S employees in Atlanta, with the help of Miss Nettie Dickinson, the Bennings' able bookkeeper, have painstakingly reconstructed the Benning Company's 1969 records. Using copies of checks, monthly billings and certain other original data, they were able to accomplish the job in about eight man-weeks. "But," Theron Parr said, "the ledgers had 1968 data in them, too; so Benning would still like to have them back."

### **Bonus baby**

Brian Smith is a young staff accountant at H&S in Greenville, South Carolina. He is interested in becoming a tax specialist and may be a good prospect because, with the help of his wife Kay, he managed a sizable income tax saving for himself last year.

With perfect family teamwork, Brian and Kay had their first child, Kristi, complete with a year's personal income tax deduction, on December 31, 1968, barely nine hours before the year ended.

It was not always certain that the Smiths' tax planning would work as they hoped. When they knew that a baby would be joining the household, consisting then of two (non-deductible) Maltese cats and a cockatiel (presumably out of harm's way in a bird-cage), they visited the doctor. "He spun his calendar and said the baby was due December 10," Brian said. "This sounded fine because even if the baby were two weeks late, as some first babies are, we'd still rate a tax deduction. Well, December 10 came and went, Santa Claus returned to the North Pole and still no baby."

On the morning of New Year's Eve, Kay said she thought the baby might finally be on its way. "By this time,"

Brian remarked, "I had given up hope and turned over and went back to sleep." By noon his wife had convinced him it was time to be at the hospital. Kristi arrived just before three p.m.

Kay's doctor asked what Brian had said "to get her to have the baby just in time for tax deduction." In the manner of new fathers everywhere, Brian didn't remember. But he did say that the next time the Smiths would plan their tax deduction for October delivery.

### Book keeper

Among Elmer Beamer's many books is one that opens readily to this quotation from the 16th century Dutch humanist Erasmus: "When I get a little money I buy books, and if any is left I buy food and clothing." It is not recorded what Erasmus' accountant thought about his method of budgeting. Mr. Beamer as both an accountant and a book collector has undoubtedly resolved his budget priorities a little differently.

The quotation is, however, a key to one of his enthusiasms. And Elmer Beamer appears to have enough energy and enthusiasm to occupy several lifetimes, though he seems determined to fit everything into the allotted one. He gets up at 6 a.m. to work on cataloguing his book collection. He gives over numerous evenings to groups that invite him and his wife to talk about and display his prayer books or to show parts of their vast collection of slides made in the cathedrals of England. These avocations occupy segments of time around his devoted services to the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio, his talks to professional accounting societies and his main duties as partner in charge of the H&S Cleveland Office.

Mr. Beamer began accumulating editions of the Book of Common Prayer, the collected ritual of the Anglican and Episcopal churches, almost by accident. He owned two interesting editions which a friend had given him. When he was subsequently asked on a literary society membership application what he collected, he answered on the strength of the two: "Books of Common Prayer." He started collecting in earnest "to get honest with myself," as he puts it.

Not given to doing things by halves, Mr. Beamer at first bought everything offered. Now, he says, he is more selective. Even at that his collection encompasses about 175 Books of Common Prayer, one dating from 1552.

Among others are a silver-covered miniature about two inches square, an exquisite lady's book bound in green velvet and edged in brass, a sumptuous limited edition bound in oak boards with metal and leather clasps, a finger-shaped copy in a silver case with a loop for hanging on a belt, and an 1887 book printed in Pitman shorthand.

Two rare French carved-leather bindings inspired Mr. Beamer's current study of leathers. "Someday I hope to know all about each binding," he said. Family births and deaths recorded in 300-year-old editions have proved frustratingly undecipherable. So at some future time he also plans to add paleography, the study of ancient modes of writing, to his activities.

Some writing is readable. Penciled on the black endpaper of the vest-pocket edition once owned by the 19th century English military leader Lord Roberts is:

"He who steals what isn't his'n  
when he is caught  
will go to prison!"

Asked if he displays the books, Mr. Beamer said there is no really satisfactory way to display them. "Lined up on a shelf, they usually get only a glance. Even if a book is opened to an interesting page and put on display, most people do not 'see' it. One has to hold a book and turn its pages—touch and feel and peer into it—to enjoy it. No, I don't display the books. They are on three walls of my study and I am happily surrounded by them."

When he gives a talk, he urges his audience to handle and examine the books he has brought. He collects only editions published in English because he likes to be able to read them. He does not have the same kind of opportunity to pore over the cathedral photographs but views them only when he is assembling slides for a talk. Mr. Beamer made 1200 slides in 1959 when he

visited 11 of England's 29 cathedral cities. He takes his color pictures with a Nikon, and as a true photography buff he travels with separate black and white cameras, a Minox and a Polaroid, but no flash attachment. He always uses available light.

The book collection has undeniable material value but assessing it, Mr. Beamer said, is not a matter of "what you paid for it but what someone else is willing to pay you for it now. It would be of considerable worth to students using an Episcopal seminary or cathedral library and we shall probably present it to such a library someday."